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CIA ALTERATION OF CHE DIARY

SANTIAGO CHILE PRENSA LATINA IN SPANISH TO PRENSA LATINA HAVANA
1510 GMT 16 OCT 67 Z

(TEXT) SANTIAGO--FOUR SPECIALISTS FROM THE U.S. CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY--CIA--HAVE BEEN WORKING ON FALSIFYING CHE GUEVARA'S DIARY IN LA PAZ SINCE 12 OCTOBER, CHARGES EDUARDO LABARCA, SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT FOR THE COMMUNIST PARTY'S DAILY, EL SIGLO. THE JOURNALIST SPENT TWO WEEKS IN BOLIVIA AND UPON HIS RETURN PUBLISHED A SERIES OF ARTICLES ABOUT WHAT HE SAW IN BOLIVIA. ACCORDING TO HIS ARTICLE, "BY USING THE FALSIFIED VERSION OF THE DIARY, THE CIA WANTS TO CREATE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS TO WAGE THE REPRESSION AGAINST THE POPULAR MOVEMENTS IN THE DIFFERENT LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, ESPECIALLY CHILE." LABARCA SAYS THAT THE GROUP OF CIA "TECHNICIANS" IS WORKING IN SPECIALLY CONSTRUCTED LABORATORIES AT THE U.S. EMBASSY AND THAT THE GROUP INCLUDES A (POLITICAL) CHIEF, A GRAPHOLOGY EXPERT, A SPECIALIZED EDITOR, AND A FORGER. LABARCA ADDS THAT "THE DIARY IS KEPT IN A SAFE AT THE MINAFLORES BARRACKS, HEADQUARTERS OF THE BOLIVIAN GENERAL STAFF, AND THAT IT IS GUARDED DAY AND NIGHT BY CIA AGENTS AS IF THE DIARY WERE A SPECIAL PRISONER. THIS LAST REQUIREMENT, SAYS LABARCA, HAS BEEN MADE BY U.S. OFFICIALS, WHO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR FEAR THAT THE TEXT OF THE DIARY COULD LEAK OUT IF IT WERE EXCLUSIVELY GUARDED BY BOLIVIAN MILITARY MEN.

AS IS KNOWN, UP TO NOW THE BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS HAVE ONLY RELEASED PORTIONS OF THE DIARY AND THE PHOTOGRAPHS OF THESE EXCERPTS WERE BY SOME DAILIES AND WERE SAID BY PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTED TO BE GENUINE. LABARCA CLAIMS THAT BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT, GENERAL BARRIENTOS, ACCEPTED THE CIA'S PLAN OF PREPARING A FALSE DIARY WHEN THE U.S. AGENTS ASSURED HIM OF COMPLETE SUPPORT FOR BOLIVIAN MARITIME ASPIRATIONS. THE JOURNALIST SAYS THAT "THE CIA WANTS TO USE CHE'S FALSIFIED DIARY AS 'PROOF' THAT BOLIVIAN GUERRILLA WARFARE WAS NOT ORIGINATED IN THIS COUNTRY BUT THAT IT WAS PREPARED, FINANCED, AND GUIDED FROM CHILEAN TERRITORY, AS WELL AS FROM OTHER NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES--ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, AND PARAGUAY. IN THE CASE OF CHILE, THE CIA WANTS TO PRESSURE FREI'S GOVERNMENT, USING THE FORGED DIARY, INTO ADOPTING REPRESSIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE POPULAR MOVEMENT.

THE YANKEE OFFICIALS TOLD GENERAL BARRIENTOS THAT IF THEY (ACCOMPLISH) THIS OBJECTIVE, THEY WOULD BE READY TO ASK THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO ACCEPT THE BOLIVIAN PROPOSALS CONCERNING AN OUTLET TO THE SEA.

27 OCT 0013Z JWH/JB